

Serial No.: 10/786,781

Docket No.: K-C 16029.1

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended Claim 1 to include limitations from dependent Claim 12. Applicants canceled dependent Claim 12 in view of amended Claim 1.

Applicants amended Claim 13 to include limitations from dependent Claim 19, and to further recite the masking agent comprises mineral particles. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, at page 2, last paragraph, through page 3, second full paragraph, of Applicants' Specification.

Applicants amended Claim 20 to recite "combining a masking agent comprising a mineral particle and a binding agent comprising a silicone compound to form a coating liquor." Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, at page 2, first full paragraph, through page 3, second full paragraph, of Applicants' Specification.

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Applicants added new Claims 21 and 22, which depend from Claims 20 and 13, respectively. Support for this Amendment can also be found, for example, at page 2, first full paragraph, through page 3, second full paragraph, of Applicants' Specification.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Hiltzik et al.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hiltzik et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082382, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 9, Applicants amended base Claim 1 to include limitations of dependent Claim 12, which the Examiner indicated was not taught by the Hiltzik et al. Publication.

Applicants amended independent Claims 13 and 20 to recite a masking agent comprising mineral particles. The Hiltzik et al. Publication does not disclose or suggest incorporating a masking agent comprising mineral particles. Claims 17 and 18 depend from Claim 13 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 13.

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Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Hiltzik et al. Publication.

Karapasha

The rejection of Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Karapasha, WO 91/12030, is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 1 and 20 recite a silicone binding agents and Claim 13 recites an elastomeric binding agent. The Karapasha Publication discloses binder materials comprising starch, cellulose, modified starch, modified cellulose, gum acacia/gum arabic, and soluble gelatin. The Karapasha Publication neither discloses nor suggests using a silicone binding agent or an elastomeric binding agent to coat activated carbon. Therefore, the Karapasha Publication does not teach each and every limitation of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 13, and 20. Claims 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17, and 18 depend from one of Claims 1 and 13, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons as Claims 1 and 13.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Karapasha Publication.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiltzik et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0082382, or Karapasha, WO 91/12030, is respectfully traversed. Claim 11 depends from Claim 1, and is thus patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above for Claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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